



COMMISSION ON INSURANCE

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Scott J. Svonkin
Chairperson

Daniel Falcon
Vice-Chairperson

Barry R. Binder
William K. Callagy
Michael G. Cheung
Rickey Ivie
Don Lee
Curren D. Price, Jr.
Patricia Torres

MINUTES

Meeting of March 24, 2005
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 372
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Commissioners Present: Barry Binder, William Callagy, Dan Falcon (temporarily absent attended via teleconference), Curren Price, Scott Svonkin, Patricia Torres

Commissioners Absent: Michael Cheung, Rickie Ivie, Don Lee

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of a quorum, Chairperson Svonkin called the meeting to order as a Committee of the Whole at 9:00 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Scott Svonkin reported the following:

- Commissioner Rickie Ivie's brother recently passed; staff was directed to forward a letter of condolence on behalf of the Commission;
- The Commission's Sunset Review will be due in December 2005, and the review will be discussed at the Commission's May 11, 2005 meeting;
- Staff will e-mail a meeting notice to Commissioners; and
- A doctor's written complaints against an insurance company have been received; staff was directed to send a letter to the State Insurance Commission.

(Vice-Chairperson Falcon joined the meeting via teleconference, constituting a quorum).

APPROVAL OF JUNE 10, 2004, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004 AND JANUARY 27, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Callagy and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 10, 2004, September 2, 2004 and January 27, 2005 were approved.

DISCUSSION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE BILL SB – 20 (ESCUTIA)

Chairperson Svonkin gave a brief overview of Legislative Bill SB – 20 (Escutia) Auto Insurance: low-cost policies; evidence of financial responsibility; and review of insurance related bills. Mr. Svonkin noted the importance of the bill and the programs ability to provide insurance to low income residents of Los Angeles County.

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Callagy and unanimously carried, the Commission will seek the Board of Supervisors support of SB-20.

DISCUSSION TO IMPLEMENT AN AWARDS PROGRAM FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Chairperson Svonkin reported that the Commission has discussed the importance of implementing an Awards Program for outstanding service provided by insurance agents and their companies who promote and write-up low-cost automobile insurance policies. Following discussion, of Vice-Chair Falcon, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously carried, the Commission agreed to implement an Awards Program of Outstanding Service to recognize auto insurance agents and their companies.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations for Chairperson were opened. Vice Chairperson Falcon nominated Chairperson Svonkin for re-election. Nominations were closed. On motion of Vice Chairperson Falcon, seconded by Commissioner Price, with Vice-Chairperson Falcon, Commissioners Binder, Callagy, Torres, and Price voting aye, Scott Svonkin was re-elected Chairperson.

Nominations for Vice-Chairperson were opened. Commissioner Binder nominated Vice-Chairperson Falcon for re-election. Nominations were closed. On motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Torres, with Chairperson Svonkin, Commissioners Callagy, Price, Binder and Torres voting aye, Daniel Falcon was re-elected Vice-Chairperson.

(Vice-Chairperson Falcon was excused from the meeting at 10:10 a.m.).

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE UPDATES AND PLANNING

Commissioner Callagy noted that he will inform the Commission of Workers' Compensation concerns as he receives periodic updates. Staff distributed a March 21, 2005 Los Angeles Times article, "Insurers Sue Over Alleged Health Scam". Following discussion, Chairperson Svonkin requested staff to invite County Counsel to report to the Commission in the near future on civil lawsuits, and the DA's office work on major fraud cases regarding insurance scams.

Commissioner Torres suggested that staff contact the CAO's Risk Management Office for an update on current case work on this issue.

MATTERS NOT ON POSTED AGENDA (To be placed on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting)

Chairperson Svonkin commented on today's Los Angeles Times article of Premier Insurance Company advocating a 10% rate reduction across the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Staff

Lee Millen, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Twila P. Kerr, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors

Guests

Mary Callagy